RESOLUTION TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREES TO VINCENT DeCAPRIO,
STEVE KALAFER, SHEILA OLIVER, AND M. STANLEY WHITTINGHAM

WHEREAS by awarding honorary degrees, New Jersey Institute of Technology recognizes outstanding individuals whose accomplishments are of such excellence that they provide inspiration to our graduates, and

WHEREAS the following individuals have displayed the level of exemplary achievement deemed worthy of the singular recognition conveyed by the conferral of an honorary degree by the university, namely:

Vincent L. DeCaprio EE ’72 was formerly president, CEO and vice chairman of Vysteris, Inc., a company engaged in the development and commercialization of novel transdermal drug delivery systems. Dr. DeCaprio joined Vysteris from Becton Dickinson (BD), a leading medical technology company, where he served most recently as senior vice president and general manager of Advanced Drug Delivery. Prior positions at BD included senior vice president and chief technology officer, sector president for technique products, and president of the worldwide vascular access business.

Dr. DeCaprio has been engaged in the development and commercialization of several medical devices including insulin delivery systems, interventional radiology products and vascular access devices. He holds a BSEE degree from Newark College of Engineering and MS and Ph.D. degrees in bioengineering from the Polytechnic Institute of New York.

Vince has been elected to the College of Fellows of AIMBE (American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering), has served on AIMBE’s board of directors as chair of the Industry Council, and has organized and chaired the annual Industry Forum sessions at AIMBE’s annual meetings. He served as a member of NJIT’s Board of Trustees from December 1998 – January 2020, and served on the industrial advisory boards of MIT’s Center for Biomedical Engineering, John Hopkins University’s Bioengineering Department, and the Georgia Institute of Technology's Petit Institute. In the past, he has served as chairman of the Governor's Council on Science and Technology for the State of Utah and has spoken at numerous conferences on topics such as the management of innovation and health care industry and technology trends.

Steve Kalafer, a member of NJIT’s Board of Overseers, is the founding Chairman of the Flemington Car and Truck Country Family. He is also the Chairman of the Somerset Patriots, a successful minor league baseball team. He is the Chairman Emeritus of the Somerset Health Care Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors of RWJBarnabas Health. Steve also serves as a trustee on the board of New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance and recently retired as a trustee of the Joe Torre Safe At Home Foundation. Steve and his wife Suzanne recently donated $1 million to
Somerset Health Care Foundation to support the renovation of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset’s 1-East Geriatric Unit.

For over 25 years, Steve worked tirelessly for The Actor’s Fund. He served the Actor’s Fund in several capacities, including as a board member, fundraiser, and volunteer treasurer. He was awarded the Actors Fund of America Medal of Honor in April 2013. In addition to his efforts for the foundation, he is a three-time Academy Award nominated producer for feature films and documentaries.

Steve has been presented with several Hunterdon County community awards including: the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award, The Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Golden Award presented by the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, the Citizen of the Year Award by the Flemington Elks and the Hunterdon County YMCA Man of the Year Award. He also has been awarded the Anti-Defamation League’s prestigious Torch of Liberty Award, named the Ernst and Young Master Entrepreneur of the Year in New Jersey, honored by the Women’s Crisis Services of Hunterdon County and received the Spirit of Jane Rodney Award. He was honored as the Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year by the New Jersey Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2016.

**Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver** has pioneered a successful career in public service advocating for social justice, women’s equality, and education, ultimately becoming the first woman of color to serve in a statewide elected office in New Jersey history.

In addition to her role as Lieutenant Governor, she serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, where she has led efforts to strengthen and expand initiatives for fair and affordable housing, community revitalization, homelessness prevention, and local government services that support New Jersey’s 565 municipalities.

Under her leadership, the Department has also expanded and leveraged a wide range of initiatives aimed at assisting distressed municipalities, including the federal Opportunity Zones tax incentive, the newly revived Main Street New Jersey program, Urban Enterprise Zones, the Neighborhood Preservation Program, and the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program, which received increased funding.

Across her career, Lieutenant Governor Oliver has worked in the public, non-profit, and private sectors, and has taught numerous college courses. She has served as a member of both the East Orange Board of Education and the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

In 2003, she was elected to serve the 34th Legislative District in the New Jersey General Assembly. A trailblazer in every sense of the word, in 2010 she became the first African-American woman in
A proud alumna of the Newark public school system, Lieutenant Governor Oliver graduated cum laude from Lincoln University, and received her Master of Science Degree in Community Organization, Planning and Administration from Columbia University.

Michael Stanley Whittingham is a Distinguished Professor of chemistry and director of both the Institute for Materials Research and the Materials Science and Engineering program at Binghampton University, part of the State University of New York.

In 2019 Dr. Whittingham was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his development of lithium-ion batteries. He and his team discovered that holding lithium ions between plates of titanium sulfide created electricity. The lightweight lithium-ion batteries power laptops, tablets, cellphones and most electric cars. They have laid the foundation for a wireless, fossil fuel-free society.

Whittingham is a key figure in the history of the development of lithium batteries. He discovered the intercalation electrodes in 1970s for the first time and thoroughly described the concept of intercalation reaction for rechargeable batteries in the late of 1970s. He holds the original patents on the concept of the use of intercalation chemistry in high-power density, highly reversible lithium batteries. He invented the first rechargeable lithium ion battery, patented in 1977 and assigned to Exxon. His work on lithium battery laid the foundations for other followers' later developments. Therefore, he is the called Founding Father of rechargeable lithium batteries.

Born in Nottingham, England, Dr. Whittingham was educated at Stamford School in Lincolnshire from 1951–1960, before going to New College, Oxford to read Chemistry. He received his BA (1964), MA (1967), and DPhil (1968) all from Oxford University. After completing his graduate studies, Dr. Whittingham was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. He worked for Exxon Research & Engineering Company for 16 years, and then spent four years working for Schlumberger Limited prior to becoming a professor at SUNY Binghamton.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NJIT will confer upon Steve Kalafer and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*; and upon Vincent DeCaprio and M. Stanley Whittingham the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Science, *honoris causa*, at the May 19th, 2020 NJIT Commencement Ceremony.

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Holly C. Stern, Esq.
General Counsel/Vice President, Legal Affairs and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
New Jersey Institute of Technology

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Board Resolution 2020-20